



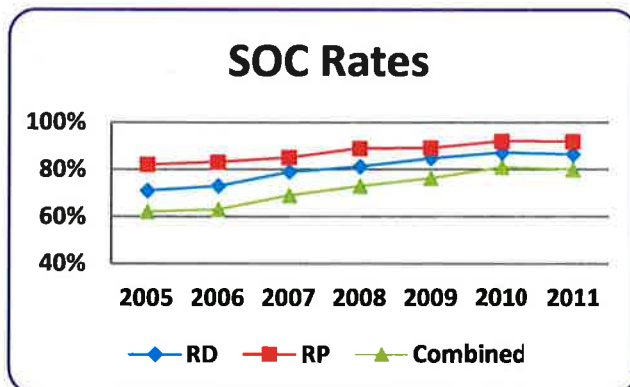
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

JAN 17 2012

Mr. George Hartenstein, Acting Director
Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8471

Dear Mr. Hartenstein:

On November 23, 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III conducted the FY11 end-of-year review of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), Subtitle "I" Underground Storage Tank (UST) and Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) programs, including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant. Your staff had the opportunity to review this letter and offer comments.



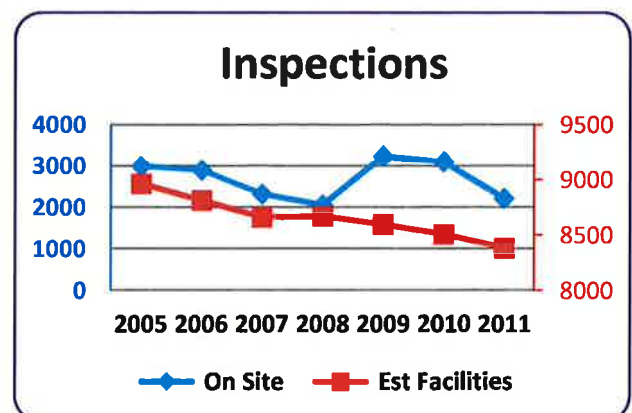
Historic release detection (RD), release prevention (RP), and combined compliance rates.

(RP) (verses 91.9% at MY 11), and 80% for combined release detection/prevention (versus 79.1% at MY11).

The Commonwealth achieved a total of 2,217 inspections with an inspection frequency of 3.6 years. This higher inspection frequency is due to a decreased number of inspections during the reporting period because a reduced amount of regulated facilities requiring scheduled inspections. EPA recognizes PADEP's efforts in this regard.

Overall, EPA is pleased with PADEP's performance in the UST and LUST programs through end-of-year FY11. In the UST Program, PADEP's significant operational compliance (SOC) rates have steadily increased from FY05 through FY11. The increasing SOC rates may have contributed to a decrease in confirmed releases and a significantly lower number of claims being submitted to PADEP's Underground Storage Tank Indemnification

Fund (USTIF). PADEP achieved SOC rates of 86.5% for release detection (RD) (verses 85.2% at MY11), 91.9% percent for release prevention

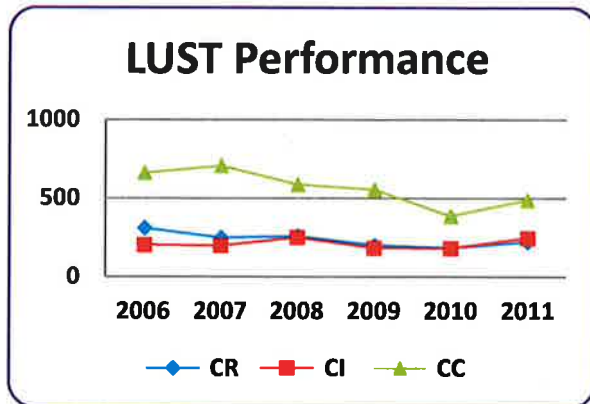


The universe of UST facilities in Pennsylvania compared to the number of inspections conducted annually

EPA appreciates the Commonwealth's work toward the accomplishment of the UST provisions of the Energy Policy Act (EPA) and thanks PADEP for submitting its list of SOC inspections conducted during FY11. The Region is requesting this information to verify that States are complying with the Energy Policy Act inspection requirement. By the end of the current grant cycle, EPA should have three lists that represent the State's universe of federally-regulated tanks that required SOC inspections.

In the LUST program, PADEP surpassed its grant goals for cleanups completed from

2007 through 2011. PADEP's cooperative agreement work plan specified a grant supported goal of 375 cleanups with PADEP accomplishing 485 cleanups for FY11. PADEP currently has a relative backlog of 17.2% versus 18.1% at midyear. EPA appreciates PADEP's progress in this area.

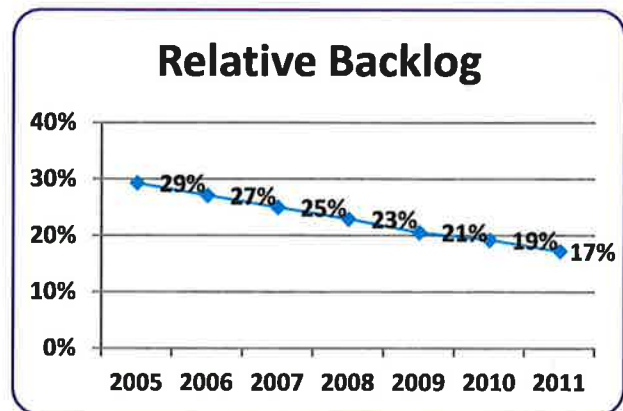


Confirmed releases, clean-ups
Initiated, clean-ups
Completed

EPA will award PADEP an additional \$150,000 in LUST Corrective Action funds to conduct additional site characterization at an ARRA-initiated site. The State will need to submit an amended work plan and budget pages before EPA can award these funds.

PADEP treats its QAPP and QMP as working documents, updating them as needed to successfully implement the program. EPA approved PADEP's QAPP in August 2007 and approved PADEP's QMP on January 7, 2011 for a period of five years.


EPA appreciates PADEP's support of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) program. As of September 30, 2011, PADEP obligated and spent 100% of its ARRA funds and is preparing to do its final draw of Stimulus funds.



Pennsylvania's open sites divided by cumulative confirmed releases

I thank your office for its continued productivity in implementing the UST, LUST and ARRA programs. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (215) 814-3143 or at ferdas.abe@epa.gov.

Sincerely,


for Abraham Ferdas, Director
Land & Chemicals Division

cc: C. Olewiler, PADEP
C. Swokel, PADEP
K. Shiffer, PADEP